GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:705
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009
SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY IN INDIA
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the agreement signed by the SAARC member countries for the establishment of a South Asian University; and

(b) the role assigned to the member countries as per the agreement?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)& (b) The Intergovernmental Agreement for setting up the South Asian University (SAU) was signed during the 14h SAARC Summit held in New Delhi on 4 April 2007.

The Intergovernmental Agreement states that the purpose of the University is to be create a world class institution of learning that will bring together the brightest and the most dedicated students from all countries of south Asia-irrespective of gender,caste,creed,disability,ethnicity or socio-economic background-to impart to them liberal and humane education and to give them analytical tools needed for the pursuit of profession and inculcate in them the qualities of leadership.

The agreement also provides that the University shall be governed by a Governing Board, composed of two members from each member state and will be headed by a chairperson.The chairperson shall be elected from among the members of the Governing Board.

The Intergovernmental Agreement envisages an active participatory role for all Member States of SAARC in the establishment and running of the University.As it is a regional project,the participation of SAARC member states is required at every stage.